

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I want to thank the Almighty in prayer for granting me strength and blessing me with such a magnificent fortune by virtue of what I am here.

I would like to acknowledge and give my warmest thanks to my supervisor, Guide and Guru **Dr. Chetan G. Limbachiya** who made this work possible. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to him for his unwavering support of my PhD studies and research effort, as well as his commitment, endurance, passion, and extensive expertise. His perfect assistance and insightful recommendations aided me throughout the research and writing of my thesis.

At this point, I'd want to convey my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Minaxi Vinodkumar for her invaluable assistance and support. Sincere appreciation also goes to honourable Retd. Prof. K.N. Joshipura assisted me in doing an excellent study with their extensive subject knowledge.

My deepest gratitude goes to my research colleagues Dhaval Chauhan, Smruti Parikh, Dr. Mohit Swadia, Navin Chaudhary, Dr. Madhushree Roychowdhary, Dr. Rakesh Bhavsar and Margi Patel for their assistance with the research.

I am grateful to Dr. Piyush J. Vyas, Principal, Sheth M.N. Science College, Patan, for fostering a friendly atmosphere in the institute throughout my tenure here. I am grateful to my colleagues Dr. Kirti R. Patel, Dr. Manish J. Pindariya, and Dr. Rushi J. Parmar for their assistance.

It gives me great pleasure to express my gratitude to my wife and best friend Jyoti for her unending assistance and support and my son Manan for sparing me from social obligation during entire course period. It would not be possible without them.

Last but not least, I would want to thank my family members for their never-ending backing and support during my research adventure. Your prayer for me was what sustained me this far.

Niravkumar H. Thakkar